

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1700
Application No. 09/763,135
Paper Dated: April 13, 2006
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of October 13, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 3848-010270

IN THE CLAIMS – Following is the list of claims and their status:

1.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (NEW) An underground, partially double-walled reservoir for storing liquid products, comprising:

a single-component, rigid, inner, main tank having an outer surface, at least some specific areas of the outer surface being blasted to enhance the adhesion of a polyurethane to such areas;

an impact resistant, electrically insulating, solvent-free polyurethane directly adhered to the specific blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner tank; and

a bi-component outer, secondary tank surrounding non-blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner tank, the secondary tank consisting of integrally bonded, indivisible inner and outer layers, the inner layer made from an impervious paper material and the outer layer made from an impact resistant, electrically insulating, pure, solvent-free polyurethane;

wherein the paper material provides the polyurethane with tensile strength, and the polyurethane provides the paper material with cut and shear resistance.

24. (NEW) The underground reservoir of claim 23, wherein the impervious paper material is a latex-based paper.

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25. (NEW) An underground, partially double-walled reservoir for storing liquid products, comprising:

a single-component, rigid, inner, main tank having an outer surface with at least some specific areas thereof blasted, the main tank including:

a pipe for feeding the liquid product to be stored;

a pipe for removing the product stored for distribution;

a well for use in connection with a buoy of a sensor for detecting the presence of liquid;

a check point for use in verifying integrity; and

an impact resistant, electrically insulating, solvent-free polyurethane adhered to the specific blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner tank; and

a bi-component, outer secondary tank, surrounding non-blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner tank, the secondary tank consisting of integrally bonded, indivisible inner and outer layers, the inner layer consisting of an impervious paper material and the outer layer consisting of an impact resistant, pure, solvent-free polyurethane and having a thickness of at least 2.5 mm;

wherein the secondary tank is formed from an electrically insulating, non-metallic material configured to prevent the formation of a galvanic couple.

26. (NEW) The underground reservoir of claim 25, wherein the impervious paper material is a latex-based paper.

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27. (NEW) A method of manufacturing an underground, partially double-walled reservoir for storing liquid products, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a single-component, rigid, inner, main tank having an outer surface;

blasting at least some specific areas of the outer surface of the inner, main tank;

applying an impact resistant, electrically insulating, pure, solvent-free polyurethane directly over the blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner, main tank; and

surrounding non-blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner, main tank with a bi-component outer, secondary tank consisting of integrally bonded, indivisible inner and outer layers, the inner layer made from an impervious paper material and the outer layer made from an impact resistant, electrically insulating, pure, solvent-free polyurethane;

wherein the paper material provides the polyurethane with tensile strength and the polyurethane provides the paper material with cut and shear resistance.

28. (NEW) A method of manufacturing an underground, partially double-walled reservoir for storing liquid products, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a single-component, rigid, inner, main tank having an outer surface;

blasting at least some specific areas of the outer surface of the inner, main tank;

applying an impact resistant, electrically insulating, pure, solvent-free polyurethane directly over the blasted areas of the outer surface of the inner, main tank; and

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forming a bi-component, outer, secondary tank covering non-blasted portions of the outer surface of the inner, main tank, the secondary tank consisting of integrally bonded, indivisible inner and outer layers, the inner layer made from an impervious paper material and the outer layer made from a impact resistant, electrically insulating, pure, solvent-free polyurethane applied by an airless process up to a thickness of at least 2.5 mm;

wherein the paper material provides the polyurethane with tensile strength and the polyurethane provides the paper material with cut and shear resistance.